

Editor's Overview

It is with pleasure that we bring you the ninth issue of FOCUS. We hope you enjoy the new design and the fact that it is now published in color. In this new phase, FOCUS expands its contents and reaches out to expose the City and Regional Planning Department's work to a much wider readership by becoming available on-demand through the Amazon.com website. FOCUS has come to age and is testing new grounds. As a consequence, in this issue we share excellent articles and work.

In Planner's View, lecturer Chris Clark writes a provocative article on the planner's daily dealing with constitutional matters. The Special Section includes an article on the international competition for the Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to the contributions of two important guest speakers. Mary Strenn (AICP and former city manager in four cities) spoke about the challenges of managing a city, sharing several revealing moments of her career, and stressing the importance of visionary plans and of understanding market forces. James Rojas (a planner with Los Angeles County and co-founder of the Latino Urban Forum) visited the university in the spring quarter, and presented on the importance of inclusiveness in planning practice and shared several of his experiences, utilizing visioning tools and participatory techniques. He also conducted a workshop for our students, and in this section he is interviewed by his host faculty member, Kelly Main.

Opening the Essays section, Adam Fukushima, a transportation planner with Caltrans, describes his agency's efforts to implement the 2010 Complete Streets Action Plan, following state directives requiring cities and counties to integrate all modes of transportation in a well-balanced, safe, and convenient network through their general plans. Additionally, Cal Poly's environmental psychology professor Daniel Levi, writes about the conflict between authenticity and perceived authenticity in the California Missions, and the tension between sacred ground and tourist attraction and this reflection on historic preservation. The limits to localism in Europe are discussed by Ivor Samuels, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at England's Urban Morphology Research Group and formerly a visiting professor at CRP. Facing the worst economic crisis in eighty years European countries blame planning for hampering growth and are turning away from regional and general plans to local plans and planning by project with unexpected inadequate results. Next, Dr. William Siembieda, CRP professor and former department head, writes about the recovery from the recent natural disasters in Japan, Chile and New Zealand. This past academic year Dr. Siembieda was on leave holding research appointments at Kyoto University in Japan and Massey University in Wellington, New Zealand. The section closes with an extraordinarily visual piece and article by MCRP students Michael Heater and Brian Harrington, illuminating simple tools and techniques planners can use to enhance photographs of the city.

The Student and Faculty Work section is full of examples of interdisciplinary work—a cornerstone of CRP—that show the leading role planners can have in teams. The section starts with

Lecturer Loulie Brown writing about the college's interdisciplinary entries for the 2012 Bank of America Housing Challenge, won for the second year in a row by a Cal Poly team. MCRP student Emma Schoppe describes the urban design plan for South El Camino Real in Atascadero, developed for the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and the City of Atascadero. This innovative plan integrated the work of two classes: a first year graduate studio and a second year undergraduate studio. Faculty member, Zeljka Howard, and senior Jenna Hahn discuss the two-quarter process of one of the fourth-year community planning labs that culminated in the Envision Downtown Plan for Hayward, a city in the Bay Area. The process involved a great deal of public engagement from surveys and community workshops, to concept development and the final plan. The section ends with an article by Schani Siong on her Illustrated Design Model for Strategic Growth, an urban design model exploring the design potential of San Luis Obispo County's strategic growth policies, and included a concept for a 40-acre neighborhood and 3D computer modeling. The PhotoVoice project explores a method of public outreach that was implemented as a part of the Santa Paula Community Plan, and is addressed by faculty Kelly Main. Lecturer Doreen Liberto-Blank and a group of students close the section with an article on the paradigm shift that planning is experiencing with internet-related tools and hand-held devices for public outreach, civic education, and public participation.

The International section brings two interesting articles describing CRP students' experiences in Europe. Faculty Vicente del Rio and senior Jenna Hahn write about the 2011 Urban Design Summer Program in Lisbon, that included nineteen CAED students, thirteen from CRP and five from our local partner, Universidade Lusofona. This one-month program included developing a project in Lisbon and visiting several other amazing cities and places in Portugal. One of the participants, Emily Gerger, followed on for a semester-long stay in Paris where she took classes, and adapted one of her assignments into a FOCUS article comparing Haussman's plan for the City of Paris to President Sarkozy's 2007 Grand Paris plan.

The Spotlight section brings CRP Department Head Hemalata Dandekar writing about the past year studios before shining a light on Paul Wack, one of CRP's most liked and well-known faculty. Retiring this year, Paul has taught generations of CRP students and has built a strong constituency for planning, interdisciplinary experience, and the concern for the negative effects of climate change. In his interview, Paul shares some of his personal, academic, and professional stories. As customary, the Spotlight section ends with the abstracts of all master's theses and projects defended in the 2011/12 academic year.

Enjoy FOCUS!

Vicente del Rio
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